IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054]   A number of validation ~~option~~ options may be specified if the annotation is applied or carried forward to subsequent versions. For example, a user may specify (via radio buttons 446, 447, and 448, respectively) that validation may be required prior to carrying the annotation forward to subsequent versions, that the annotation may be carried forward automatically and marked as unverified, or neither. As will be described in greater detail below, if user validation is required, the annotation maintenance component may be configured to notify the user (e.g., via e-mail, instant message, or other type of notification technique) in the event a change to the annotated document is detected.

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

[0059]   The operations 600 begin, at step 602, by receiving an annotated document 117, for example, by the annotation maintenance component 144[[,]] that has been modified via an application 120. At step 604, a determination is made as to whether the document has changed, for example, by comparing a change detection value 155 stored in a corresponding annotation record 150 with a changed detection value calculated for the document 117. If the document 117 has not changed, the operations 600 are exited, at step 610.